**Top 10 Ways to Use Wordle's Word Clouds for Classroom Lessons**

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Wordle.net is becoming one of the most used new technology tools for teachers. It is free, and versatile enough to be used in any area of the curriculum. This article contains ten of the best ideas for Wordle lessons in the classroom.

Believe it or not, incorporating Wordle lessons into your classroom routines is quick and easy! Below, you will find a list of ideas you can use in your classroom - today!

**Lesson Ideas**

1. **Personal Narratives**: Write, or copy and paste, a personal narrative into Wordle. Students will be able to see what is important to their peers from the words that are produced from the Wordle word clouds. Compare the words that are used most often by boys, or girls, by age group, or by class/grade level. These Wordle lessons make great displays outside a classroom.

2. **Famous Speeches**: Enter the text of a famous historical speech into Wordle. Analyze the results by looking at the most commonly used words, or even the words that are not used. What does this tell us about the orator and their intentions? Go to <http://www.historyplace.com/speeches/previous.htm> or <http://www.americanrhetoric.com/top100speechesall.html> for a list of historical speeches you may want to get started with.

3. **Create a Wordle Gift**: Mother's Day, Father's Day, [Grandparent's](http://www.brighthub.com/education/k-12/articles/58905.aspx) Day, or even Teacher Appreciation Day, can all be celebrated with Wordle. Input your favorite adjectives for your chosen person, generate the word cloud, and add it to a greeting card, poster, calendar, or whatever else you choose. Remember, Wordle clouds can be downloaded as JPEGS or PNGS if you take a screenshot of your word cloud and save it to your computer, (command+shift+4 on a Mac will give you the option of saving a selcted portion of your screen).

4. **Classroom Polls**: Instead of your traditional bar graph or pictograph, try using Wordle to organize your data. What is the favorite [color](http://www.brighthub.com/education/k-12/articles/58905.aspx) in your class? Have all students take turns at entering their favorite color in to Wordle and generate the resulting cloud. Bigger words = more popular colors. Repeat with ice cream flavors, pets, family members, etc.

5. **Compare and Contrast**: Use Wordle as a [compare and contrast](http://www.brighthub.com/education/homework-tips/articles/51968.aspx) tool. Compare and contrast the word clouds of two or more students' writing, famous speeches, song lyrics, news reports, book reviews or whatever else you may need to compare in your classroom studies.

6. **Student Profiles**: I have done this with PowerPoint before, but recently saw someone do the same with Wordle lessons. Have all students in your class write a few positive adjectives about each of their classmates anonymously. Compile all the [papers](http://www.brighthub.com/education/k-12/articles/58905.aspx), input the adjectives for each student into Wordle, and generate a student profile word cloud to give back to the student. Children always enjoy this positive feedback exercise, and it can be a great end of year activity to take home from the last day of school.

7. **Current Affairs Analysis**: Copy and paste a news story into Wordle. What could the story have been about? Can you guess what the headline would have been? Where could have it taken place? These questions and more make this a worthy discussion exercise.

8. **Wordle Word Walls**: Brighten up your [word walls](http://www.brighthub.com/education/k-12/articles/7017.aspx) with Wordle lessons. Students can brainstorm synonyms, antonyms, or definitions for their list of vocabulary words. Add your word clouds to your existing word wall work to help stimulate those higher thinking skills in your students. Keep a tally of the targeted vocabulary words that the children use in speech on a daily basis, and them to a Wordle cloud to show which are used most often.

9. **Unit Review/Preview Posters**: Students can create [KWL charts](http://www.brighthub.com/education/k-12/articles/17603.aspx) on what they would like to learn and find out about a given topic. Alternatively, create word clouds at the end of a unit to summarize the key learning points or vocabulary from a given topic.

10. **Historical Document Analysis**: Have you ever wondered what the Magna Carta or Declaration of Independence would look like when pasted into Wordle? Try it and see. There will be lots of talking points from the resulting word cloud. What do you predict you will see? What themes can you identify? How does the word cloud fit in with the historical context of the document?